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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 09975 252203Z

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 HEW-02 AGR-05 L-02 RSC-01 SMI-01

CEQ-01 EPA-01 INT-05 COME-00 IO-10 COA-01 /040 W
---------- 107707
P 252135Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2882

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, TBIO, PE
SUBJ: PRIMATES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PRUPOSES

REF: STATE 254006

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH LOCAL OFFICIAL S OF MERCK AND WITH DR. FELIPE BENAVIDES OF PERUVIAN ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. MERCK OFFICIALS SAID MATTER IS IN LIMBO PENDING DECISION BY PRESIDENT VELASCO, ALTHOUGH THEY EXPECT THAT EXPORT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED AND THAT GOP WILL REQUIRE THAT ANIMALS BE RETURNED TO THE WILD. IN THE MEANTIME, THEY SAY, 700 ANIMALS ARE ALREADY IN LIMA AWAITING EXPORT. CARE AND FEEDING IS COSTING $250 PER DAY, AND MANY HAVE ALREADY DIED. MERCK OFFICIALS TAKE POSITION THAT SINCE THEY WENT TO EXPENSE OF TRAPPING AND TRANSPORTING MARMOSETS IN GOOD FAITH, IT WOULD BE UN-REASONABLE TO EXPECT THEM TO PAY FOR RETURNING ANIMALS TO WILD.

2. DR. BENAVIDES INITIALLY POINTED OUT THAT MARMOSETS ARE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES AND THAT THEIR TRAPPING AND EXPORTATION IS CONTRARY TO PERUVIAN LAW. HE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT GOP WOULD PERMIT THEIR TRAPPING FOR RE-SEARCH PURPOSES AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY MIGHT IN FACT BE SQUIRREL MONKEYS, WHICH ARE PLENTIFUL AND ARE COMMONLY USED FOR REASEARCH. DR. BENAVIDES HAS SINCE CONFIRMED TO
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EMBASSY OFFICER THAT ANIMALS ARE INDEED MARMOSETS. HE SAYS 800 ARE NOW IN LIMA AND IS AWARE THAT MANY HAVE DIED.

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HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT REFUSAL TO PERMIT EXPORT WAS PROMPTED BY PRESIDENT VELASCO. HOWEVER, WHILE EXPORT WOULD BE AGAINST LAW, RETURN OF MARMOSETS TO WILD WOULD ALSO BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE ANIMALS ARE SO DELICATE THAT THEY SHOULD BE FREED IN AREA IN WHICH THEY WERE TRAPPED IF MAJOR ADDITIONAL MORTALITY IS TO BE AVOIDED. HE WAS UNABLE TO STATE WHAT FINAL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM MIGHT BE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: ANIMALS, ENDANGERED SPECIES, EXPORT CONTROLS, MEDICAL RESEARCH
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Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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